

Japanese/POW Friendship Program Co- Coordinators



Project Title	Japanese/POW Friendship Program Co- Coordinators
Project Summary	Help coordinate the annual Japanese/POW Friendship Program. Funded by the Japanese government and facilitated by the State Department, the program sends former U.S. POWs in Japan to Japan for a one-week visit intended to promote healing and reconciliation.
Country	United States
Agency	Department of State
DoS Office	EAP/J
Post	N/A
Section	N/A
Number of Interns	2

Project Description

VSFS volunteers will co-coordinate the Japanese/POW Friendship Program. Since 2010, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sponsored groups of former Prisoners of War (POWs) and their caretakers to travel to Japan as a gesture of healing and reconciliation. Under the program, the group meets with Japanese government officials and citizen groups, and visits WWII memorial sites. Many of the POWs have the opportunity to visit their former prison and labor camps.

Co-Coordiators of the Japanese/POW Friendship Program would be expected to:

- 1) Collaborate with NGOs, veteran organizations, and others to recruit eligible candidates.
- 2) Explain all aspects of the Japanese/POW Friendship Program, including:
 - a. History of the program
 - b. Notable government stakeholders involved in the program
 - c. Success of past visits
 - d. Potential benefits involved in participating in the program
- 3) Guide program participants through the application process, including:
 - a. Interviewing participants about their experiences as POWs in Japan, including preparing bios for each participant.
 - b. Collecting logistical information from POW participants to ensure their smooth and safe travel to Japan.
 - c. Communicating program logistics to participants.
- 4) Respond to queries from POWs regarding travel concerns, length of the program, program activities, the

process of applying for passports, logistics, etc.

5) Act as a liaison between the program participants, the Department of State's Office of Japanese Affairs, and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ensure that all parties involved are kept up to date with the latest information regarding:

- a. Program developments
- b. Concerns regarding the candidate's health, interests, free-time, travel ability etc.

6) Partner with the other intern(s), the State Department coordinator, and the NGO coordinator to complete the work efficiently.

7) Commit to support the Japanese/POW Friendship Program from mid-May through the end of November, 2018.

- a. Co-coordinators will commit to approximately 10 hours of work per week from mid-May through the end of November.
- b. Work hours can fluctuate depending on progress made as the trip approaches. Trips are generally held in October, but this varies year to year. There will be some wrap-up work to do after participants return, but the busiest period is June through October.

The Office of Japanese Affairs will be available at all times to provide support to the VSFS co-coordinators. Questions regarding logistical or technical support can be directed to Robert McDonald, Japan Desk point-of-contact for the Japanese/POW Friendship Program.

Given that these elderly candidates (all the former POWs are now in their 90s) will require assistance, POW co-coordinators are expected to be courteous and patient.

Desired Skills Interests

Additional Information

Specific knowledge or skills required for this project: Familiarity with U.S.-Japan relations, interest in WWII veteran and POW experiences, strong communication skills, self-motivated, coordination and program management skills.

Additional requirements or comments: Candidates must be available from May through November 2018; candidates who graduate prior to that date will not be considered. Program participants may be introduced to a number of individuals with equity in the project, including officials from the Embassy of Japan, the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor-Memorial Society, and the U.S. Department of State. No travel is required of the co-coordinators.

Language Requirements

Language	Speaking Proficiency	Reading Proficiency	Importance
Japanese	Limited working proficiency	Limited working proficiency	Nice to Have